

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 10 Number 4

April 2004

April Meeting—9:30 a.m. sharp!

Saturday, April 3, 2004

510 E. Memory Lane, Santa Ana

NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING SITE AND

TIME: We will meet at **9:30 a.m.** by the Oak Grove picnic tables at the Bowling Green. Descend the stairs by the driveway to the picnic tables below.

Tour of Nature Reserve

After several years of meeting at the Bowling Green, this is our first opportunity to view the 18- acre Santiago Park Nature Reserve in which it lies. Patrick Mitchell, the Reserve's naturalist will take us on a walking tour (though all but about 200 yards can be driven), visiting several restoration sites, including Coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, native walnut woodland, native grasslands, and riparian habitats. The tour will terminate at the Native Plant nursery, with an opportunity to purchase native plants at a much reduced rate on a cash and carry basis. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for weather

Volunteer Opportunities

April 14: Fullerton Farmers Market Woodcrest Park, 450 W. Orangethorpe Ave. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bob Anspach, who normally works the Farmer's Market with Liz Marchant, is unavailable that day and we need a second person to help. Bring your reference books, a note pad, pencil, and a chair. Call Liz Marchant for more information.

April 24-25: Green Scene. Fullerton Arboretum: Volunteers needed to work in Plant Sales and answer gardening questions, etc. on Saturday and Sunday, April 24th and 25th (Green Scene).

The hours are 8:30-1:00 and 12:30-5:00 on Saturday and 9:30-1:00 and 12:30-4:30.

To volunteer for Green Scene the contact is: Mark Costello 714 278-8347.

Basic membership is required: Individual is \$25 annually, families or couples \$50 annually. Two documents must be signed and on file with regards to rules, regulations and waivers. One is for the Arboretum and the other is for CSU Fullerton. All three of these can be completed and paid for in advance or on the day of the assignment at the Arboretum.

SOUTH COAST GARDEN SHOW

APRIL 1-4, 2004

THURSDAY APRIL 1ST

10am-1pm: Dana Howell, Lois Laughlin, Mary Raspa, Sally Barnum

1pm -5pm: Veronica Smith (1-7 pm), Gloria Potocki

5pm-9pm: Cheryl Spencer, Lois Daybell

FRIDAY APRIL 2ND

10am-1pm: Jackie Brooks, Jean Rice, Diane Parker

1pm-5pm: Yanna Gaussa, Diane Parker, Mary & Bill McMurrin

5pm-9pm: Cindy Marinkovich, Yvonne Grajeda, Beatrice deBerry

SATURDAY APRIL 3RD

10am-1pm: June Gelling, Rita Mangus, Veronica Smith

1pm-5pm: June Gelling, Rita Mangus, Diane Parker, Anne Kunzig

5pm-9pm: Sally & Karl Barnum, Beatrice deBerry, Michael O'Connor

SUNDAY APRIL 4th

11am -6:30pm: Diane Parker, Veronica Smith, Nancy Moyna, Nancy Spires

SPRING GARDEN SHOW 2004

Information & Procedures

- Location of the Show is at 3333 Bear Street in Costa Mesa
- Please wear your OCMG badge or the Spring Garden Show badge. Leave the Spring Garden Show badge for the next group of volunteers.
- Extra Green Scene pamphlets and OCMG information are under the table
- Sign up people interested in becoming OCMG. New class starts in September
- Try and answer all garden related questions to the best of your ability. If you don't know the answer, take the person's name, phone number, or email address so you can research the answer and get back to them.
- The last volunteers at night: please spray the plants with water--the bottle is under the table.
- Reference books should be placed under the table at night.
- Saturday afternoon and Sunday the plants can be sold, cash only, prices are on the tags.
- We are unable to hold any plants not picked up by 4 p.m.
- All plants and money are returned to the Arboretum.
- I will be there Sunday afternoon to help with the take down.
- Smile and enjoy the show!

Thank you--- Sharon

Additional request for the Spring Garden Show. Mary Chidester Borevits of Mary's Good Snails, is seeking assistance at the Spring Garden Show in Costa Mesa. If you are interested in helping with the booth any time April 1 through April 4, she could pay \$10.00 an hour and/or trade snails for help. She does have a person Friday 1-3 to help. This is not an OCMG volunteer venue. Contact Mary at: mary@goodsnails.com or www.goodsnails.com, 912 Cassou Road, San Marcos, CA 92069-9715
760-744-9233 phone 760-471-9935 fax

Gardening Events

Fullerton College: Tomato plant sale, April 1-3, 10-3, April 4, noon – 3. Over 125 varieties!

Fullerton Arboretum. Pre-register for all classes by calling 714/278-3579 ext. 0.

April 3: Exploring the World of Birds & Butterflies with Don Bauman and Diane Nielen.
8:30-10:00 am, Oak Hall Classroom-\$7/person

April 17: Gourd Art Workshop 101 with Curtis Hayes, member, Orange County Gourd Society.
10:00-Noon, Bleachers-\$15 (Ages: 12-adult)

April 24-25: Green Scene.
The largest annual outdoor plant and garden resource sale in California with over 100 exhibitors. The theme this year for Green Scene is "The Enchanted Garden." The gates open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 24 for a "Members Only Preview". Regular sale hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25. Admission is \$6.00 for adults; kids 12 and under are free. Members of The Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum are admitted free of charge. Visit the website at www.arboretum.fullerton.edu

Leaves from the President



We are now celebrating spring, not only in our yards but also with the many events that we have planned. Our meeting in April will be tour of Santiago Park, meet at the picnic tables at 9:30am near the lawn bowling green.

The South Coast Garden Show will start on April 1st- April 4th. Those of you who signed up to work thank you. Our table will be on the third floor its location will be assigned to us when we set up for the show. Look for the location maps of the show at the entrance and we will be listed under Orange County Master Gardeners. You can also call me on Thursday afternoon and I can guide you.

Green Scene at Fullerton Arboretum will be April 24th 25th. Please call the Arboretum if you would like to volunteer.*Refer to announcement in the newsletter for more information.

Congratulations to the Graduates! You can see there are several things to volunteer for, before long you will each have your 50 hours for certification.

Our election for Board Members will be in June this is a wonderful way to get involved with OCMG. If you would like to be on the Board (certification is required) please let Rosemary Hackett, Kathleen Phipps or me know.

There is also need for a Plants 'n Thing coordinator. This requires you to come to each meeting early so you can organize the opportunity table. In the past this has always been a job for one person but I feel this would be a great job for two people to share in the responsibilities. Certification is not needed just the desire to get involved.

Please mark your calendars on May 1st for our first OCMG member garden tour. We have six

exciting gardens to visit. Information will be in our next newsletter so watch for it.

I experienced a complete computer break down this last month. I now not only have a new computer but also a new email address. .

Happy Spring -- Sharon Neely

Contacts

Sharon Neely, *President*.....
Iris Stuart, *1st Vice Pres.*.....
Public Education & Outreach
Kathleen Phipps, *2nd Vice Pres.*... ..
Janet Meade, *Treasurer*.....
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*.....(

OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

Ripening chart: At our March meeting, Tom Spellman displayed an 18" X 25" color chart by Dave Wilson Nursery showing ripening times for stone fruits and nuts. It would be very useful in selecting fruit trees with sequential ripening times. Dave Wilson Nursery will mail one of these to any that are interested.

Send \$5 plus a self-addressed 8 1/2" X 11" envelope with 64 cents postage attached to:

Attn. Deanna
Dave Wilson Nursery
19701 Lake Road
Hickman, CA 95323

Sources for Roses

Jan Youngquist answered my rose plea with a plethora of information about rose sources. It may be past bare root season, but it's not too late to plant roses and there is always next year.

Did you know that the nursery that is going in next to Denman's will specialize in miniature roses and clematis? Other sources of miniatures are:

www.noreast-miniroses.com

www.bridgesroses.com

www.michaelsrose.com

www.johnsminiatureroses.com

A reliable source of heirloom roses is www.vintageroses.com. They grow roses on their own roots. The best selection of roses at any local nursery that Jan has found is Lakewood Nursery (NOT in the city of Lakewood) on the corner of Bloomfield and Carson (across from Forest Lawn). Take the 605 freeway to Carson and go east. Also, try H&H Nursery in Lakewood on Lakewood Blvd, just south of the 91 on the east side of the street with tons of roses and tree roses. Their prices are not very low, but they do have a quantity price. Armstrong's Nursery can order any rose not in stock. Finally, try www.jacksonandperkins.com.

Save a tree—and receive the newsletter via e-mail. You'll have the advantage of color, instead of black and white, plus the e-mail edition arrives several days before the snail mail version.

Debris from the Editor

I'd like to add my congratulations to our new graduates and urge each one to quickly get involved in a volunteer venue. The training class is only the first phase of your education; volunteering and attending our monthly meetings will continue to increase your expertise and provide an opportunity to interact with other enthusiastic gardeners.

It's my joy to thank two people who came to my aid in my hour of rose distress. Virginia Carlson had a number of extra miniature roses that she offered and which I have gratefully accepted. One pot even included a babiana, which is now blooming! Jan Youngquist sent me information on sources for roses (see above), so by next spring my rose garden should be in good shape.

My next gardening objective is to redo my front yard, specifically remove the lawn. The part that is holding me up is figuring out a good garden design that will persuade the engineer in my life that he can be happy without turf. I'm looking at low maintenance and native and our April tour sounds like just the ticket—plus, after the recent rains, I bet there will be plenty of flowering plants. And I'm looking forward to the opportunity to meet Patrick and learn more about the Reserve and how I can apply that to my home garden.

Jill Patterson

Newsflash: I just received word that Denman & Co. may be closing their store in order to move to Oregon. They are located in Orange at 401 W. Chapman (close to the traffic circle) and are open every day but Monday. If you are not familiar with Denman's, it is the best place for hand garden



tools. The store also repairs and sharpens tools and is one of the few places in the world that fabricates custom tools. The store is not limited to tools and any gardener can easily spend a few hours (and more than a few dollars) there.

Fruit Facts

NATAL PLUM – *Carissa edulis* – Apocynaceae

Donated by: CRFG/Carl Meh/FJC nursery and planted in 1981 (r.f-08)

Common names: Natal plum, Akamba, Agamita, Agam, Agamssa, Adishawel

The plant is a spiny evergreen shrub or small tree that may reach a height of 15 feet and an equal breadth. The plant is a native of South Africa and is widespread in many parts of Africa. The Natal plum was introduced in the United States in the early 1900's, first to Florida and subsequently to California, where it was primarily used as a protective hedge and the fruit was seen as a welcome by-product.

Each stalk rarely branches and has abundant white milky latex. The bark is gray and smooth, with straight woody double-pronged spines, often in pairs. The branched spines arise from lateral buds in the leaf axils and are technically modified stems.

The leaves are opposite, leathery, shiny dark green to 2 inches, tip pointed, base rounded, and the stalk is very short.



The flowers are fragrant in pink-white terminal clusters. Each flower is 5-lobed, tubular and borne singly or a few together. Some plants

bear flowers that are functionally male, larger than



normal and with larger anthers and stamens than the style. The female flowers have stamens the same length as the style and anthers without pollen.

The fruit or berries are edible. The rounded berry, about half an inch long is green and rich in latex when unripe. As it ripens, the smooth skin turns to a purple-black. The flesh is tender, very juicy, although a bit sour and tastes like unripe cherries. Unripe fruits taste tart. They contain 2-4 small, thin, flat, brown seeds. Berries are consumed both unripe and ripe. Ripe fruits, when consumed, leave the teeth dark red.

The Natal plum is a subtropical to near-tropical, enduring temperatures as low as 25° F when well established. Young plants need protection when the temperature drops below 29° F. Best growth is obtained in full sun. The shrub thrives on dry, rocky hillsides, in clay soils. The plant has moderate drought tolerance and high resistance to soil salinity and salt spray. It cannot stand water logging.

The Natal plum propagates from seeds. Seeds germinate in 2 weeks, but seedlings grow very slowly at first. Vegetative propagation is preferred and can be done easily by air layering, ground layering, or shield budding.

Natal plum flowers and fruits all year. The peak period for blooming and fruiting is May through September. The 5-pointed calyx remains attached to the plant when the fruit is picked. The fruits are made into jellies, sauces and pies.

During World War II, soldiers fighting in Africa were told, “never eat a plant part that has white latex!”

—*Alfredo Chiri*, OC Calif. Rare Fruit Growers liaison to the Fullerton Arboretum.